

**Auburn School District  
School Improvement Committee  
January 24, 2018**

**Committee Members Present:** Peter Miles, Chair; Jason Tyburski, Vice Chair; Melissa Prunier, Alan Villeneuve, Mike DiPietro, Tom Gonyea, Jim Headd, Diane Proulx, Jennifer Anderson and Jess Edwards.

**Also Present:** Janice Baker, Michael Rolfe and William Herman

Mr. Miles convened the meeting at 6:08 PM.

**Meeting Minutes:**

Mrs. Prunier moved to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2018 meeting as printed. Seconded by Mrs. Proulx. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried.

**School Building Aid:**

Mr. Miles noted the recent news accounts concerning the State distributing funds to a number of school districts for safety-related and other improvements. He asked if the Auburn School Board was looking into this funding source for the portions of the project. Mr. Villeneuve indicated they are and currently Bonnette, Page & Stone and the SAU is working to compile costs for various safety-related items of the proposed project that could qualify for potential funding. He believed there was a March 5<sup>th</sup> application deadline and that if successful, the revenue would come in as an off-set against some of the project costs.

**General Discussion:**

Mr. Miles asked for comments or input from Committee members about what they were hearing in the community and how they felt the proposed project is being received to date.

Mr. Tyburski noted he had seen some discussion on the Auburn Community Facebook page and it had been largely positive, even from a few individuals who had not been supportive of last year's project. But, he felt there has not been a lot of conversation yet out there.

Mr. Miles noted he had been hearing mainly positive comments from individuals at the Longmeadow Church breakfasts, but there were still a number of individuals he wanted to personally connect with.

Mr. Gonyea indicated he had heard few negative comments about the current proposal, but when he has he discussed the true community effort that has been taking place, the

intent to meet the needs of the school, and that he had been personally opposed to the proper plan and was fully supporting the current proposal.

Mr. Tyburski felt the communications effort should dive down further into who is on the School Improvement Committee to demonstrate the true community nature of the group, and how the Committee has arrived at various decisions.

Mrs. Prunier reported she and Lori Collins would be adding pictures of various portions of the school to their portion of the presentation so that when they are talking about a certain issue or situation, there can be a visual of the current conditions.

Mrs. Baker suggested the overall presentation be re-arranged and then assign pieces of the presentation to various committee members to handle at the next public forum on February 17<sup>th</sup>. She also felt a little more information on the phasing of construction and the addressing of safety issues should be included, and that members of the construction team be used to present that information.

Discussion turned to the potential of a one-page flier to be mailed to the voters approximately one week before the voting takes place on March 13<sup>th</sup>. There was general sentiment the flier should be relatively simple with three to four main points. It was also stressed the flier should direct individuals to the web site for more detailed information on the project.

Mrs. Baker felt the presentation moving forward should de-emphasize student enrollment, but should instead indicate there is room for growth and to emphasize the planning for full-day kindergarten. She described this as the changing educational needs of the community versus a student population boom. Several committee members felt the plan was working to meet the 21<sup>st</sup> Century needs with additional space. There was also sentiment the Committee should better address the work on the cafeteria and kitchen area versus the gymnasium. In particular, she felt addressing the time it takes now for the service of lunch and how that affects the time available to students to actually eat their lunches was important.

There was consensus there should be a general timeline available for expectations and steps to be taken after the March vote that leads to the issuance of a bond, signing of construction contracts, commencement of construction, completion of construction, etc.

Jess Edwards joined the meeting at 7:05 PM.

Committee members felt a more detailed list of what has changed in the project from 2017 to 2018 should be available. It was not determined if this would be formally part of the presentation, or background information available to everyone.

Mr. Edwards and Mr. Villeneuve both stressed the space that is being added would get the Auburn Village School to the recommended 90 percentile in the standards of the NH

Department of Education. It was also stressed the additional space is for both expansion and flexibility in meeting scheduling needs.

At the next meeting of the School Improvement Committee on February 7<sup>th</sup>, it was agreed the Committee would go through a practice of the revised presentation, and would also determine what would be included in the one-page flier.

Mrs. Proulx noted she would be attending the January 27<sup>th</sup> Senior Citizen Dinner to be held at the Longmeadow Church and she would take a supply of handouts with her to share.

Mr. Tyburski noted the two weeks prior to the March 13 voting day, they would organize people being at the transfer station with signs and handouts to provide information to voters.

**Future Committee Meetings and Events Schedule:**

Wednesday, February 7, 2018 – 6 PM – Committee Meeting

Saturday, February 17, 2018 – 9 AM – Open House Forum

Thursday, March 8, 2018 – 6:30 PM – Open House Forum

**Adjourn:**

Mr. DiPietro moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 PM, seconded by Mrs. Prunier. A vote was taken, all were in favor, and the vote was passed unanimously.